THE PRISONER OF ZENDA

Being the History of Three Months in the Life of an English Gentleman.

> BY ANTHONY HOPE. (Copyright, 1894, 1898, by Henry Holt & Co.)

III .- Continued.

For an instant we stood motionless looking at one another. Then I bared my head again and bowed respectfully. The King found his voice, and asked in

"Colonel-Fritz-who is this gentle I was about to answer when Col. you must be more sparing by two hours and began to talk to his Majesty in a low growl. The King towered over and again sought mine. I looked at him and return with the guard of honor to long and carefully. The likeness was fetch the King at 8, and then we all certainly astonishing, though I saw the ride together to the station." points of difference also. The King's face was slightly more fleshy than mine, the oval of its contour the least trifle the oval of its contour the least trifle on or pronounced, and, as I fancied, his ask the honor for his regiment," said

nose came down (as mine does when I laugh), his eyes twinkled, and, behold! he burst into the merriest fit of irrepressible laughter, which rang through the woods and proclaimed him a jovial soul.

The King began talking of what he would do in the future, old Sapt of what he had done in the past, Fritz of some beautiful girl or other, and I of the wonderful merits of the Elphberg dynasty. We all talked at once, and fol-King lie in prison or his grave."

Son. I looke watch it was mine—and Fritz's here. But if you don't go I swear to you Black Michael us," I said.

"I hope to shad there, there; but it's your life, you know, if you're known—and mine—and Fritz's here. But if you don't go I swear to you Black Michael us," I said.

"I hope to shad there, there; but it's your life, you know, if you're known—and mine—and Fritz's here. But if you don't go I swear to you Black Michael us," I said.

"I hope to shad the past, Fritz of some beautiful girl or other, and I of the laughter, will sit to-night on the throne, and the laughter, will sit to-night on the throne, and the laughter, will sit to-night on the throne, and the laughter, will sit to-night on the throne, and the laughter, will sit to-night on the throne, and the laughter, will sit to-night on the throne, and the laughter, will sit to-night on the throne, and the laughter, will sit to-night on the throne, and the laughter, will sit to-night on the throne, and the laughter, will sit to-night on the throne, and the laughter, will sit to-night on the throne, and laughter, will sit to-night on the laughter, will sit to-night on the throne, and the laughter, will sit to-night on the laughter will sit to-night on the laughter will sit to-night on the laugh

drank its fellow to the "Elphberg red." whereat he laughed loudly. Now, be the meat what it might, the wine we drank was beyond all price or praise, and we did it justice. Fritz ventured once to stay the King's hand. "What?" cried the King. "Remem-ber, you start before I do, Master Fritz;

Sapt stepped between the King and me, than I."

and began to talk to his Majesty in a Fritz saw that I did not understand low growl. The King towered over "The Colonel and I," he explained, Sapt, and as he listened his eyes now "leave here at 6; we ride down to Zenda

"Hang that same guard!" growled

mouth lacked something of the firm-ness (or obstinacy) which was to be start early. Another bottle, man!" gathered from my close-shutting lips. I had another bottle—or, rather, a But for all that, and above all minor part of one, for the larger half traveled distinctions, the likeness rose striking, salient, wonderful.

Sapt ceased speaking, and the King from persuading he fell to being persuaded, and soon we were all of us as ners of his mouth began to twitch, his full of wine as we had any right to be.

be known.'

"It's a r'sk—against a certainty Sapt. "If you shave I'll wager not be known."

Sapt. "If you shave I'll wager not be known."

Sapt. "Sir!"

"They know his illnesses too He's been 'ill' before!" "Well, we must chance what they think," said Fritz helplessly. "I'll carry the news and make the best of it."

Sapt raised his hand.
"Tell me," said he; "do you think the King was drugged?"
"I do," said I.
"Tell me," said I.
"Tell me," said I.
"I do," said I.

"And who drugged him?" "That damned hound, Black Mihael." said Fritz between his teeth. "Aye," said Sapt, "that he might not

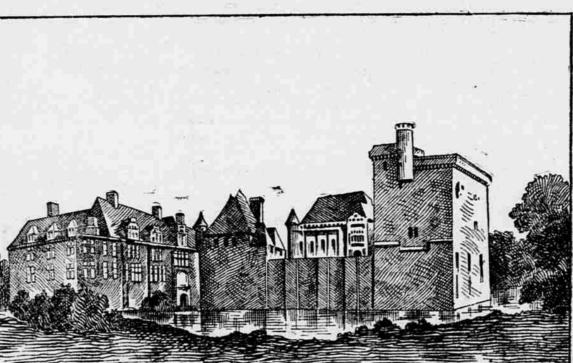
"The drunken dog!" he said. "But

he's an Eiphberg and the son of his father, and may I rot in hell before Black Michael sits in his place!" silent; then Sapt, knitting his bushy gray brows, took his pipe from his mouth and said to me:

"As a man grows old he believes in "Luckily," said he, "you won't be exstant observances and observances and this action of the Marshau's snowed me more clearly than words what the pected to know much, for the King's But if Fate made me a King the least notoriously lax and careless about such I could do was to play the part hand-

Fritz looked up with an eager, be-

"Sir!"
"Come, lad, there, there; but it's your



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THE CASTLE OF ZENDA.

"Well met, cousin!" he cried, step-ping up to me, clapping me on the back, and laughing still. "You must forgive me if I was taken aback. A man me if I was taken aback. A man doesn't expect to see double at this time of day; eh, Fritz?"

"I must pressure to see double at this time of morrow take care of itself.

At last the King set down his glas and leaned back in his chair.

"I have drunk enough."

"I must pray pardon, sire, for my King," said I.

presumption," said I. "I trust it will indeed, his remark was most absolutely your Majesty's favor."

"By Heaven! you'll always enjoy the While I yet spoke Josef came and set "You'll go?"

"You'll go?" "By Heaven! you'll always enjoy the King's countenance," he laughed, before the King a marvelous old wick-

"To Strelsau, sire-to the corona

The King looked at his friends; he still smiled, though his expression hinted some uneasiness. But the humorous side of the matter caught him again. "Fritz, Fritz!" he cried, "a thousand crowns for a sight of brother Michael's face when he sees a pair of us!" and

the merry laugh rang out again. "Serlously," observed Fritz von Tar-"Seriously," observed Fritz von Tar-lenheim, "I question Mr. Rassendyll's and his own condition, he looked round his first sign of hopefulness. wisdom in visiting Strelsau just now."

The King lit a cigaret. "Well, Sapt?" said he, questioningly. "He mustn't go," growled the old fel-

"Come, Colonel, you mean that I should be in Mr. Rassendyll's debt if—"
"Oh, aye! wrap it up in the right way," said Sapt, hauling a great pipe

"Enough, sire," said I. "Til leave "Now, by thunder, you shan't-and

what will afterward. Come, man, you don't meet a new relation every day!" "We dine sparingly to-night," said Fritz von Tarlenheim. "Not we—with our new cousin for a guest!" cried the King; and as Fritz shrugged his shoulders, he added: "Oh, I'll remember our early start, Fritz."

So will I-to-morrow morning," said

old Sapt, pulling at his pipe.
"Oh, wise old Sapt!" cried the King.
"Jome, Mr. Rassendyll—by the way,
hiat name did they give you?"
"Your Majesty's," I answered, bow-

"Well, that shows they weren't shamed of us," he laughed. "Come, than, Cousin Rudolf. I've got no house of my own here, but my dear brother Michael lends us a place of his, and wu'll make shift to entertain you there;" and he put his arm through mine, and signing to the others to ac-company us, walked me off, westerly, through the forest.

We walked for more than half an hour, and the King smoked cigarets and chattered incessantly. He was full ful old dog, kicked him sharply. He did of interest in my family, laughed heartily when I told him of the portraits with Elphberg hair in our galleries, and yet more heartily when he heard that my expedition to Ruritania was a se-

"You have to visit your disreputable cousin on the sly, have you?" said he. Suddenly emerging from the wood, we came on a small and rude shooting lodge. It was a one-story building, a sort of bungalow, built entirely of wood. As we approached it a little man in a plain livery came out to meet us. The only other person I saw about the place was a fat elderly woman, whom I afterward discovered to be the mother of Johann, the Duke's keeper.

he King.
The little servant informed us that it vas, and we soon sat down to a plen-ful meal. The fare was plain enough; F he King ate heartily, Fritz von Tarleneim delicately, old Sapt voraciously. I played a good knife and fork, as my istom is; the King noticed my per- he said.

formance with approval. "We're all good trenchermen, we Elphbergs," said he. "But what?— We're eating dry! Wine, Josef! wine, man! Are we beasts, to cat without drinking? Are we cattle, Josef?"
At this reproof Josef hastened to load the table with bottles.

"I have drunk enough," said he.
"Far be it from me to contradict the

"whether I like it or not; and, sir, I er-covered flagon. It had lain so long eyes on the prostrate figure of the King shall very gladly add to it what ser- in some darkened cellar that it seemed on the floor vices I can. Where are you traveling to blink in the candielight.

when the King was weary of all other will mount our horses—Friz must stay wines, and pray the King to drink for the love that he bears his brother."

"Well done, Black Michael!" said the ready—Josef will tell him—and he King. "Out with the cork, Josef. Hang must ride back with me to Strelsau,

bottle? The bottle was opened, and Josef fill-ed the King's glass. The King tasted it. ded my head.

for a single drop of this divine bottle, which I will drink to the health of that—that sly knave, my brother, Black And the King seized the bottle and

head on his arms on the table. that's sans phrase, as Sapt likes it. For And we drank pleasant dreams to his you shall dine with me to-night, happen Majesty—and that is all I remember of the evening. Perhaps it is enough. IV.

The King Keeps His Appointment...

Whether I had slept a minute or a year I knew not. I awoke with a start and a shiver; my face, hair and clothes dripped water, and opposite me stood old Sapt, a sneering smile on his face and an empty bucket in his hand. On the table by him sat Fritz von Tarlenheim, pale as a ghost and black as a row under the eyes.

I leaped to my feet in anger. "Your joke goes too far, sir!" I cried. "Tut, man, we've no time for quar-

His face was as red as his hair, and he breathed heavily. Sapt, the disrespectnot stir, nor was there any break in his

"We've spent half an hour on him," aid Fritz.

"He drank three times what either of you did." growled Sapt. I knelt down and felt his pulse. It was alarmingly languid and slow. We three looked at one another "Was it drugged-that last bottle?" I

asked in a whisper.
"I don't know," said Sapt.
"We must get a doctor."
"There's none within 10 miles, and 1,600 doctors wouldn't take him to "She swore she'd h

"But the coronation!" I cried in hor-Fritz shrugged his shoulders, as I began to see was his habit on most occa-

"We must send word that he's ill."

"If he's not crowned to-day," said he. "I'll lay a crown he's never crowned." "But, Heavens, why?"
"The whole Nation's there to meet

"The whole Nation's there to meet he exclaimed.

"Aye—to-morrow!" said old Sapt.
The King drained a bumper to his "Cousin Rudolf," as he was gracious—
"That he's ill," said I, in correction.
"The whole Nation's there to meet he exclaimed.

"Why did he?" I asked.
"Because Princess Flavia said grazed her cheek when he was gracious—
"That he's ill," said I, in correction.
"That he's ill," said I, in correction.
"That he's ill," said I, in correction.
"The whole Nation's there to meet he exclaimed.
"Why did he?" I asked.
"Because Princess Flavia said grazed her cheek when he was g clously pleased to give her a cousi kiss. Come, though, we must ride."

"The King would never forgive it," I stammered. "Are we women? Who cares for his forgiveness?

The clock ticked 50 times, and 60 and 70 times, as I stood in thought. Then

crying:

"You'll go?"

"Yes, I'll go," said I, and I turned my smile.

"Go
only the King "Go
"Go
only the King "Go "To-night," Sapt went on in a hasty

"His Highness the Duke of Strelsau whisper, "we are to lodge in the palace bade me set this wine before the King The moment they leave us you and when the King was weary of all other will mount our horses-Fritz must stay him! Did he think I'd flinch from his and you ride as if the devil were behind you to the frontier."

I took it all in in a second, and nod-"There's a chance," said Fritz, with

I obeyed him. He darted from the room, calling. "Josef, Josef!" In three minutes he was back, and Josef with him. The latter carried a jug of hot water, soap

turned it over his mouth, and drained and razors. He was trembling a t and flung it from him, and laid his told him how the land lay, and bade him shave me. Suddenly Fritz smote on his thigh:
"But the guard! They'll know!
they'll know!"
"Pooh! We shan't wait for the guard.

We'll ride to Hofban and catch a train there. When they come the bird 'll be

"But the King?"

"The King will be in the wine ce!r. I'm going to carry him there now."
"If they find him?"
"They won't. How should they! Josef will put them off."

Sapt stamped his foot. "We're not playing," he roared. "My God! don't I know the risk? If they do

God! don't I know the risk? If they do find him he's no worse off than if he isn't crowned to-day in Strelsau."

So speaking, he flung the door open, and, stooping, put forth a strength I did not dream he had, and lifted the King ommonly cold in body.

"Rassendyll," interrupted Fritz, get-stood in the doorway. For a moment she ting down from the table and taking stood in the doorway. For a moment she my arm, "look here."

The King lay full length on the floor. down the passage.

down the passage.

"Has she heard?" cried Fritz.

"I'll shut her mouth!" said Sapt grimly, and he bore off the King in his

breathing. I saw that his face and head were wet with water, as were and as I sat there, half dazed, Josef clipped and scraped me till my mustache and imperial were things of the past and my face was as bare as the King's. And when Fritz saw me thus he drew a long breath and excialmed:

"By Jove, we shall do it!" It was 6 o'clock now, and we had no time to lose. Sapt hurried me into the King's room, and I dressed myself in the uniform of a Colonel of the Guard,

"She swore she'd heard nothing," said mouth and bound her hands, and lock-ed her up in the coal cellar, next door flags and mottoes. The streets were to the King. Josef'll look after them lined with raised seats on each side,

"I suppose so," said I.

Old Sapt, who seemed as fresh as a daisy, had lit his pipe and was puffing hard at it.

"If he's not crowned to-day," said he could Sapt, who clapped their hands and threw their bright-courtesied and threw their brighttells them the King is gone they'll think Old Sapt handed me the King's sword looking at me long and carefully.

"Thank God, he shaved his beard!"

he exclaimed.
"Why did he?" I asked. "Because Princess Flavia said he grazed her cheek when he was gra-

"By the way," he said, "you are a Catholic, I suppose?"
"Not I," I answered.
"Lord, he's a heretic!" groaned Sapt.

but we can make it no safer."

of it be?

backs and started at a rapid trot. The

game had begun. What would the issue

The cool morning air cleared my

sther, and may I for in helf before and forthwith he fell to a rudimentary quarter and entering Duke Michael's, and forthwith he fell to a rudimentary and this action of the Marshal's showed

Fate. Fate sent you here. Fate sends matters. But you must be as civil as butter to the Cardinal. We hope to win I staggered back, murmuring, "Good him over, because he and Michael have a standing quarrel about their precedence." wildered gaze.

"Impossible!" I murmured. "I should had recovered nerve enough to explain

watch it was, of course. It was just 8. their King trusts them."

"I wonder if they've gone to look for Sapt laid his hand

"I hope they won't find the King," said Fritz nervously, and this time it was Sapt who shrugged his shoulders. The train traveled well, and at 9:30.

"Your capital, my liege," grinned old Sapt, with a wave of his hand, and.

Perhaps I ought to say that I was leaning forward, he laid his finger on leaning forward, he laid his finger on dressed all in white, except my boots, my pulse. "A little too quick," said he I wore a silver helmet with gilt ornain his grumbling tone.

hand.

"You're an Elphberg, every inch of you," said he. Then he paused, and looking at us, said quietly, "God send we may be alive to-night!"

"Amen!" said Fritz von Tarlenheim.

The train stopped. Fritz and Sapt leaped out, uncovered, and heid the door for me. I choked down a lump that rose in my throat, settled my heldoor for me. I choked down a lumb that rose in my throat, settled my hel-met firmly on my head, and (I'm not met firmly on my head, and (I'm not said another. "So he had a good jaw under that "So he had a good jaw under that" commented a third. ashamed to say it) breathed a short "So he had a good jaw under the prayer to God. Then I stepped on the beard after all," commented a third. A moment later all was bustle and confusion; mem hurrying up, hats in hand, and hurrying off again; men conducting me to the buffet; men mounting and riding in hot haste to the quarters.

"The pictures of him aren't handsome enough." declared a prefty girl, taking great care that I should hear. No doubt it was mere flattery.

But in spite of these signs of applatform of the station at Strelsau.

A moment later all was bustle and and riding in hot haste to the quarters of the troops, to the cathedral, to the residence of Duke Michael. Even as I swallowed the last drop of my cup of

coffee the bells throughout all the broke out into a joyful peal, and the sound of a military band and of men cheering smote upon my ear.

King Rudolf the Fifth was in his good city of Streisau. And they shouted outside:

"Cod save the King"

At last we were at the control of the

"God save the King!" "God save 'em both!" he whispered.
"Courage, lad!" and I felt his hand press my knee.

V. The Adventures of an Understudy.

With Fritz von Tarlenheim and Col. Sapt close behind me I stepped out of the buffet on to the platform. The last thing I did was to feel if my revolver were handy and my sword loose in the scabbard. A gay group of officers and high dignitaries stood waiting me, at their head a tall old man, covered with medals and of military bearing. He were the relieve and red rither of the off a girl, pale and lovely, surmounted

end I knew that I was in the presence of the most famous veteran of the Ruritanian army.

Just behind the Marshal stood a short, spare man, in flowing robes of

black and crimson. "The Chancellor of the Kingdom,"

an apology from the Duke of Strelsau.
The Duke, it seemed, had been afflicted
with a sudden indisposition which made
it impossible for him to come to the betrayed the least suspicion, and I leit my nerve returning and the agitated beating of my heart subsiding. But Fritz was still pale, and his hand shook like a leaf as he extended it to the Marlike a leaf a

"Your joke goes too far, sir!" I cried.
"Tut, man, we've no time for quarreling. Nothing else would rouse you.
It's 5 o'clock."
"Till thank you, Col. Sapt—" I began and, stooping, put forth a strength I did not dream he had, and lifted the King again, hot in spirit, though I was unlike the strength I did not dream he had, and lifted the King in his hands. And as he did so the old dignitaries went off to their carriages, in his hands. And as he did so the old dignitaries went off to their carriages, and I started to ride through the streets.

Then the lady with the pale face and took our way to the door of the state of the glorious hair, her train held by two nation. Here I mounted my horse, the markal holding my stirrup. The civil dignitaries went off to their carriages, and I started to ride through the streets. with the Marshal on my right and Sapt (who, as my chief Aid-de-Camp, was entitled to the place) on my left. The city is Strelsau is partly old and partly new. Spacious modern boulevards and residential quarters surround and embrace the narrow, tortuous and picturesque streets of the original town. In the outer circles the upper classes live; in the inner the shops are situated, and behind their prosperous fronts lie hid-den populous but wretched lanes and alleys, filled with a poverty-stricken, turbulent and (in large measure) crim-inal class. These social and local divi-sions corresponded, as I knew from Sapt's information, to another division more important to me. The New Town was for the King; but to the Old Town Michael of Streisau was a hope, a hero

finding time, as I slipped on the King's and a darling.

boots, to ask Sapt what he had done with the old woman.

The scene was very brilliant as we passed along the Grand Boulevard and "Well, is dinner ready, Josef?" asked He'll not move for six or seven hours together and put a handkerchief in her of my devoted adherents. Every hours both, later on."

Then I burst out laughing, and even old Sapt grimly smiled.

"I fancy," said he, "that when Josef The balconies were full of gayly-dressed. The balconies were full of gayly-dressed their hands and

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dianapolis, Ind.

"Is all safe here?"
"Nothing's safe anywhere," said Sapt, Fritz now rejoined us in the uniform of a Captain in the same regiment as that to which my dress belonged. In

shal," said I gayly, and he nodded.

I have written "gayly," and a strange word it must seem. But the truth is that I was drunk with excitement. At that moment I believed—I almost believed—that I was in very truth the King; and, with a look of laughing triumph, I raised my eyes to the beauty-laden beleasing or how far mustless bad.

"And when's the wedding?" and as he spoke another struck him in the face, crying, "Long live Duke Michael!" and the Princess colored—it was an admirable tint—and looked straight in front of her.

Now, I felt in a difficulty, because I had forgotten to ask Sapt the state of many affections or how far mustless bad.

Fritz von Tarlenheim buried his race in his hands. The King breathed louding give me hints with what degree of favor had cried aloud, "That's not the King!" we went by; and then the Martin and heavily. Sapt stirred him again to greet them. shal, turning round in his saddle, wave I his hand, and the Cuirassiers closed round us, so that the crowd could not come near me. We were leaving my quarter and entering Duke Michael's,

> omely.
> "Why this change in our order, Marshal?" said I..
>
> The Marshal bit his white mustache "It is more prudent, sire," he mur-

mured. I drew rein.
"Let those in front ride on," said I. "it's a risk—against a certainty," said the King had changed his plans. The those in front ride on," said I, "tel those in front ride on," said I, the King had changed his plans. The train steamed up. We got into a first class carriage, and Sapt, leaning back on the custions, went on with his lesson that the custom one is nearer that the king had changed his plans. The those in front ride on," said I, "till they are 50 yards ahead. But do you, Marshal, and Col. Sapt and my friends wait here till I have ridden 50 yards. And see that no one is nearer son. I looked at my watch—the King's to me. I will have my people see that

> Sapt iaid his hand on my arm. I shook him off. The Marshal hesitated. "Am I not understood?" said I; and, biting his mustache again, he gave the orders. I saw old Sapt smiling into his beard, but he shook his head at me. If looking out of the window, I saw the towers and spires of a great city.
>
> | Deard, but he shook his head at me. If I had been killed in open day in the towers and spires of a great city. streets of Strelsau Sapt's position would

> "I'm not made of stone!" I exclaim- Rose looked well across my chest. I "You'll do," said he, with a nod. "We the King if I did not set modesty aside must say Fritz here has caught the and admit that I made a very fine figague. Drain your flask, Fritz, for Heaven's sake, boy!"
>
> Fritz did as he was bid.
>
> sake, boy!"
>
> Fritz did as he was bid.
>
> sparsely-decorated, somber streets of Fritz did as he was bid. sparsely-decorated, somber streets of the Old Town there was first a mur-

here to meet us yet. And meanwhile—"
"Meanwhile," said I, "the King 'll bo
hanged if he doesn't have some breakfast."

a window above a cookshop, there the King I should have thought it did local saying:

"If he's red he's right!" whereat I laughed and took off my helmet that she might see that I was of the right she might see that I was of the right large, blare! We were color, and they cheered me again at

proval and interest the mass of the people received me in silence and with sullen looks, and my dear brother's city dows—which was an ironical sort of the greeting to the King. I was quite glad that he had been spared the unpleasant sight. He was a man of quick temper, and perhaps he would not have taken

At last we were at the cathedral To

great gray front, embellished with hundreds of statues and boasting a pair of the finest oak doors in Europe, rose for the first time before me, and the sud den sense of my audacity almost overcame me. Everything was in a mist at I dismounted. I saw the Marshal and Sapt dimly, and dimly the throng o gorgeously-robed priests who awaite me. And my eyes were still dim as walked up the great nave, with th pealing of the organ in my cars. saw nothing of the brilliant throng the "If I escape detection," said I.

"Gentlemen, my friends—Rudolf, my cousin ('its a scandalous story, Rudolf, on my honor!)—everything is yours, to the half of Ruritania. But ask me not for a single drop of this divine bottle.

"If I escape detection," said I.

"If we're detected," said Sapt, "I'll send Black Michael down below before I go myself, so help me Heaven! Sit in that chair, man."

"If I escape detection," said I.

"If we're detected," said Sapt, "I'll send Rose of Ruritania—which, by the way, decorated my unworthy breast also.

"Marshal Strakencz," whispared Sant blooded red cheeks blook blook blooded red cheeks blook bloo was in the presence of my brother. Black Michael. And when he saw me his red cheeks went paie all in a moment, and his helmet fell with a clatter on the floor. Till that moment I be-

lieve that he had not realized that the King was in very truth come to Strelwhispered Sapt.

The Marshal greeted me in a few loyal words, and proceeded to deliver nothing. I knelt before the altar and the Cardinal anointed my head. Then the Cardinal anointed my head. Then I rose to my feet, and stretched out my hand and took from him the crown of it impossible for him to come to the station, but he craved leave to await his Majesty at the cathedral. I expressed my concern, accepted the Marshai's excuses very suavely, and receivable for him the crown of a station in the crown of a station, but he can all and took in the crown of a station, but he can all and took in the crown of a station, but he can all and took in the crown of a station, but he craved leave to await swore the old oath of the King; and (if it were a sin, may it be forgiven me) I received the Holy Sacrament the crown of a station, but he craved leave to await swore the old oath of the King; and if it were a sin, may it be forgiven me) I received the Holy Sacrament the crown of a station, but he craved leave to await and set it on my head, and I swore the old oath of the King; and if it were a sin, may it be forgiven me) I received the Holy Sacrament the crown of the crown o shal's excuses very suavely, and received the compliments of a large number of distinguished personages. No one betrayed the least suspicion, and I felt betrayed the least suspicion, and I felt betrayed the least suspicion.

She courtested low, and put her hand under mine and raised my hand and kissed it. And for an instant I thought what I had best do. Then I drew her to me and kissed her twice on the cheek, and she blushed red, and—why then his Eminence the Cardinal Arch bishop slipped in front of Black Mi chael, and kissed my hand and pre sented me with a letter from the Pope the first and last which I have ever re eeived from that exalted quarter!

And then came the Duke of Strelsau

His step trembled, I swear, and he looked to the right and to the left, as a man looks who thinks on flight; and his face was patched with red and white, and his hand shook so that it jumped under mine, and I felt his lips dry and parched. And I glanced at Sapt, who was smiling again into his beard, and, resolutely doing my duty in that station of life to which I had been marvelously called, I took my dear Mi-chael by both hands and kissed him on the cheek. I think we were both glac then that was over!

But neither in the face of the Prin cess nor in that of any other did I so the least doubt or questioning. Ye had I and the King stood side by side they could have told us in an instant, or, at least, on a little consideration But neither they nor anyone else dream as weary and blase as though I had been a King all my life; and everybody kissed my hand, and the Embassador paid me their respects, among them of ord Topham, at whose house in Gros enor Square I had danced a score o imes. Thank Heaven, the old man was is blind as a bat, and did not claim my

acquaintance.

Then back we went through the streets to the palace, and I heard them

lodged in my horse's mane, and cheering Black Michael; but he, Fritz took it and stuck it in my coat. The told me, sat biting his nails like a man in a reverle, and even his own friends some glances at his face, but he was too impassive to show me whether his sympathies were with me or not.

"The was reason to the Flickheam Man and a side with the Princess Flavia, and a side with the Princess Flavia, and a study of the princess flavia, and a side with the princess flavia.

"The red rose for the Elphbergs Mar-shal," said I gayly, and he nodded. "And when's the wed "And when's the wedding?" and as

"Aye," said Sapt, "that he might not come to be crowned. Rassendyll here doesn't know our pretty Michael. What think you, Fritz—has Michael no King ready? Has half Strelsau no other candidate? As God's alive, man, the throne's lost if the King show himself not in Strelsau to-day. I know Black Michael."

"We could carry him there," said I. "And a very pretty picture he makes," sneered Sapt.

"The cool morning air cleared my head, and I was able to take in all Sapt the king sable to take in all Sapt the king and, with a look of laughing triumph, I raised my eyes to the beauty-laden balconies again • • and then I started. For looking down on the king, began at once to instruct me most minutely in the history of my past life, of my family, of my tastes, pursuits, weaknesses, friends, companions and servants. He told me the etiquet of the Ruritanian court, promising to be constantly at my elbow to point out everybody whom I ought to know, and in his hands. The King breathed loudthe Princess, recovering her equanimity, turned to me.

"Do you know, Rudolf," said she you look somehow different to-day?" The fact was not surprising, but the emark was disquieting.

"You look," she went on, "more so ber, more sedate; you're almost care-worn, and I declare you're thinner. Surely it's not possible that you've be gun to take anything seriously?" The Princess seemed to hold of the King much the same opinion that Lady Burlesdon held of me.

I braced myself up to the conversa "Would that please you?" I asked oftly.

"Oh, you know my views," said she urning her eyes away. "Whatever pleases you I try to do," I said; and as I saw her smile and blush I thought that I was playing the King's hand very well for him. So I

continued, and what I said was per-

fectly true:

"I assure you my dear cousin, that nothing in my life has affected me more than the reception I've been greeted with to-day." She smiled brightly, but in an instant grew grave again, and whispered:
"Did you notice Michael?"
"Yes," said I, adding, "He wasn't en-

joving himself." be careful," she went on. "You don't-indeed you don't-keep enough atch on him. You know-"
"I know," said I, "that he wants what vatch on him.

"Yes. Hush!" Then-and I can't justify it, for I ommitted the King far beyond what had a right to do-I suppose she caried me off my feet-I went on:

"And, perhaps, also something which haven't got yet, but hope to win some "Wo're an hour early, said Sapt. the Old Town there was hist a high day."
"Wo'll send word forward of your Majmur, then a cheer, and a woman, from a window above a cookshop, cried the King I should have thought it encour-

> olor, and they cheered me again at the palace. Guns were firing and trumpets blowing. Rows of lackeys stood waiting, and, handing the Princess up the broad marble staircase, I took formal possession, as a crowned King, of the house of my ancestors, and not determine the palace. sat down at my own table, with my cousin on my right hand, on her other side Black Michael, and on my left his Eminence the Cardinal. Behind my chair stood Sapt, and at the end of the table I saw Fritz von Tarlenheim drain to the bottom his glass of champagne I wondered what the King of Ruritania was doing.
> (To be continued.)

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ADDRESS

Waterville Correspondence Portland

Oregonian.) Rattlesnakes have appeared in such normous numbers in the rich wheat ields of the Upper Columbia River country that harvesters have been driven to extraordinary precautions to avoid being bitten. The use of leggins made of sheet tin is a common practice, and has been strongly recommended for

general adoption. In one wheat field 50 rattlers were counted by a harvest crew. The serpents have invaded buildings temporarily vacated and all buildings are carefully examined before being reoccupied. The reptiles take up their abode in the

walls whenever possible. Lake Chelan prospectors ound of shots in a showing of ore and dislodged 150 snakes, 50 of which were killed or disabled by the explosion. Campers on the lakes and rivers have and exhibit rattlesnake buttons as evidence of their prowess

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Sioux Indian Chief, He-No-Fraid.

The Sentinels (3,043 feet high), Yosemite, Cal.

Mother of the Forest, 63 feet in circumference. Yosemite Valley, Cal. Magdalen College, Oxford, England. Ireland. Killarney, Ross Castle. Interior of Muckross Abbey, Ireland. North Town, Gibraltar. Berlin. Boulder Basin and Cathedral. Germany. Ruins of Feudal Castle. Germany. Steamer Leaving Koblenz. Sweden. Water-front, Stockholm. Stockholm. The King's Castle. Sweden. On the Road to Odde. Sweden. Lejon Castle, Gotoborg. Switzerland. Mount Blane from Chamoni. Thun, Switzerland. Court of the Fishes, Alhambra, Granada, Spain. Cathedral of Notre Dame, facade. Paris, France. Garden of the Tuilleries, Paris. France. Palaces of the Nations on the Seine, Paris Exposition, 1900, Venus de Milo in the Louvre, Paris, France. Des Champs Elysses, Paris, France.
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